

REMARKS

Attorney for applicant thanks the examiner for the interview November 18, 2005. The amended and new claims clarify that the displayed approval text is recorded together with the document. This feature enables latter review of the matter to verify or prove that the contents of the approved document or documents and the displayed approval text are both associated with the approver's approval. This verification applies to cases with a sole approver or cases with multiple approvers. The cited references do not record the displayed approval text with the record of the approved document and the record of the approver's approval.

If any further amendment is necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable condition, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact the undersigned by fax or telephone at the number listed below.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No.06-1505.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix of Claims (Clean Copy)

1-25 (Canceled)

26. (currently amended) A method of approving a document comprising:

storing the document in a central storage area, the storage area preventing alternation or modification of the document during the approval process;

advising an approver that the document requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;

allowing the approver to review the document;

prompting approval of the document by the approver, said prompting step includes displaying approval text;

obtaining the approver's agreement to the document and to the approval text;

recording the date of approval; and

recording the displayed approval text for the approved document.

27. (previously presented) A method of claim as recited in claim 26, further comprising the step of generating an approval log.

28. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 27, further comprising associating the approval log with a unique file record.

29. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 28, further comprising processing the approval log into an XML file.

30. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising multiple approvers approving a document and recording each approver's approval.

31. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 27, wherein the advising step comprises providing an email to the approver and proving a hyperlink to the document.
32. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the document is selected from a group consisting of a patent application, a trademark application, an assignment document and a power of attorney.
33. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising the step of allowing access to the central storage area to view the approval record.
34. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising storing this approval text in the central storage area.
35. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising:
after said prompting approval step, an approver rejects the document;
repeating advising an approver that the document requiring approval is accessible for review and approval; repeating allowing the approver to review the document; and
repeating prompting approval by the approver.
36. (currently amended) A method of approving a document comprising:
(a) storing the document in a central storage area, the storage area preventing alternation or modification of the document during the approval process;
(b) advising two or more approvers that the document requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;
(c) allowing each approver to review the document;
(d) prompting approval by each approver, said prompting step includes displaying approval text;

- (e) at least one of said approvers rejecting the document;
- (f) repeating said advising step (b);
- (g) repeating said allowing step (c);
- (h) repeat said prompting step (d);
- (i) obtaining approval by each approvers' agreement to the document and to the approval text;
- (j) recording the date of approval for each approver;
- (k) recording the approval text; and
- (l) recording the displayed approval text for the approved document.

37. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 36, further comprising between step (e) and step (f), changing said document.

38. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 36, wherein said two or more approvers approved the same document.

39. (new) A method of approving an invention disclosure document comprising:
storing the disclosure in a central storage area, the storage area preventing alternation or modification of the disclosure during the approval process;
advising two or more inventors that the disclosure requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;
allowing each inventor to review the disclosure;
prompting approval by each inventor, said prompting step includes displaying approval text for the disclosure;
obtaining approval from each inventor;
recording the date of approval for each inventor; and
recording the displayed approval text for the approved disclosure.

40. (new) A method of approving a patent application document comprising:

storing the application in a central storage area, the storage area preventing alternation or modification of the application during the approval process;

advising an approver that the application requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;

allowing the approver to review the application;

prompting approval the by the approver, said prompting step includes displaying approval text for the application;

obtaining approval the approver;

recording the date of approval from the approver; and

recording the displayed approval text the approver agreed to when the approver approved the application.

41. (new) A method of approving an invention disclosure document comprising:

(a) storing the disclosure in a central storage area, the storage area preventing alternation or modification of the document during the approval process;

(b) advising two or more approvers that the disclosure requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;

(c) allowing each approver to review the disclosure;

(d) prompting approval by each approver, said prompting step includes displaying approval text;

(e) at least one of said approvers rejecting the disclosure;

(f) repeating said advising step (b);

(g) repeating said allowing step (c);

(h) repeat said prompting step (d);

(i) obtaining approval by each approvers' agreement to the disclosure and to the approval text;

(j) recording the date of approval for each approver;

(k) recording the approval text; and

(l) recording the displayed approval text for the approved disclosure.

42. (new) A method of approving a patent application comprising:

- (a) storing the application in a central storage area, the storage area preventing alternation or modification of the document during the approval process;
- (b) advising two or more approvers that the application requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;
- (c) allowing each approver to review the application;
- (d) prompting approval by each approver, said prompting step includes displaying approval text;
- (e) at least one of said approvers rejecting the application;
- (f) repeating said advising step (b);
- (g) repeating said allowing step (c);
- (h) repeat said prompting step (d);
- (i) obtaining approval by each approvers' agreement to the application and to the approval text;
- (j) recording the date of approval for each approver;
- (k) recording the approval text; and
- (l) recording the displayed approval text for the approved application.